M
303 the ngula stands before the apparatus. The mixture of water, ngula dust, and a few grains of sand falls into the storage basin as the work progresses. When the stock is large enough, the native plaits small baskets having the shape of a truncated cone and an average capacity of one cubic decimeter. The ngula paste is packed into these baskets, and the lot is then hung under the shelter out of the sun. At the end of a few days the paste is dry. The molded cone of ngula is taken from the mold, wrapped in banana leaves, and

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Fig. 92. A Batua Chief Inongo, with a Rope Headdress.

carefully tied with rattan thongs, bamboo splints, or raffia fibers.

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438 The family supply is usually left in the storage basins of the devices for making ngula; all the molded cakes are sold at outside markets.

M
303
285 The baskets used as ngula molds are all plaited in the same way. Four rattan thongs are laid in a row across four others, without being interlaced or plaited at the points where they cross. This forms the bottom of the basket. The thongs are lifted up at the four

352
322 [103] Occasionally one sees a native stool, made as described above, but with a kind of back rest chopped out of one piece.

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177 The Negro who wishes to move with the times makes for his house a chair out of bamboo in the European style: some sticks stuck in the ground, a mat of split bamboo laid over them, and the gentleman can spend his days in dolce far niente [pleasant idleness].

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322 A table made in the same way (otherwise unknown to the Negro) completes the furnishing of his hut.

One does not need to be an expert, either, in order to be able to make a Negro bed. Some straight sticks are chopped out of the mombambo (umbrella tree). These are placed lengthwise and then across, on top of each other, trimmed a bit at the edges so that the whole thing fits more or less, and it is then bound together with some split lianas. In this way the Negro has made a bed; this favorite [435] piece of furniture is finished for a sale price of 5 to 10 mitako.

The making of beds could be classed among the Mongo trades. [438] I once saw, in the interior, ten of these beds, large and small spread out along the side of the road for sale.

I was assured that the owner of the beds was the very best bed-maker of the village. Of course, I raised my hat to such an important personage.

The ekoba, the bed stool, is also indispensable. These ekoba take the place of our pillows and are made of one piece, formed to the shape of the head. It is a somewhat hard pillow, but the Negro head is hard and can put up with it; the fellow sleeps without having to be rocked.

322
252 To prepare his food he needs some mortars and pestles, and these are made of wood. He uses hardwood for these utensils so that the mortars do not wear away from the constant pounding.

In addition, the Negro makes his oars, his bow and arrows for
322 the hunt, and the lokombi. The lokombi is a flat, oblong, hollowed
534 block of wood over which some pegs are stretched [sic]. He plucks these with his fingers, thus producing a monotonous sound. This so-called musical instrument is the constant companion of the young man and accompanies him on his long treks through the Evenaar forest and on his visits to friends and acquaintances.